DARKNESS FALLS ON
SCOOBY-DOO!
THE BLACK KATZ
DE PORTER

DARKNESS FALLS ON SCOOBY-DOO!™

THE BLACK KATZ

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Spotlight

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Scooby-Doo!™

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HARVEY RICHARDS - EDITOR COVER BY VINCENT DEPORTER
KATZBURG, NEW YORK...
LIKE... LOOK OUT! FELINE IN THE ROAD...!
I SEE HER, SHAGGY!
SKREEEECH
EITHER THE MYSTERY MACHINE HAS, LIKE, GREAT BRAKES...
...OR CATS REALLY DO HAVE NINE LIVES!
POOR KITTY!

POOR KITTY?! I ALMOST CRASHED THE MYSTERY MACHINE BECAUSE OF HER!
AND IF SHE LIVES HERE, HOW POOR CAN SHE BE?
:SNIFF! SNIFF!:
JUST AS LONG AS SHE'S OFF THE ROAD AND OUT OF DANGER, I...HUH?
WOW! WILL YOU LOOK AT THAT...!
I AM...
...BUT I THINK I'M, LIKE, SEEING DOUBLE TIMES TWENTY!
RATS?!?
RAT'S RT! R'M RUTTA RERE!
SCOOBY?! HEY, WHAT'S WRONG, BUDDY?
IT'S JUST DISGUSTING, ISN'T IT...
...ALLOWING THOSE FELINE BEASTS TO WANDER FREELY, CAUSING HAVOC WHEREVER THEY GO!
EXCUSE ME, MA'AM?

YOU MAY CALL ME MRS. VON TROUSDALE. BLACK CATS... THEY BRING BAD LUCK, DON'T YOU KNOW?
THEY DO?
LOOK AT WHAT A NERVOUS WRECK THEY'VE MADE MY POOR LITTLE FIFI, ISN'T THAT RIGHT, FIFI?
BROKEN LIMBS. AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENTS. FIRES. IT IS INTOLERABLE!
BUT I SHALL TAKE CARE OF THOSE BEASTS! OH, YES I WILL! NOW COME ALONG, FIFI...!
I GUESS SOME PEOPLE JUST AREN'T CAT LOVERS.
I THINK WE'VE GOT ONE OF THOSE ON OUR TEAM, TOO.
...AW C'MON, SCOOB--IT'S JUST, LIKE, A FEW CATS.
RATS!! RRRRRRRR-RRRRR!
I'M WAYLON WOLFE, ANIMAL CONTROL AGENT.
YOU FOLKS, OKAY? I SAW WHAT HAPPENED... THOSE DARNED CATS!
EVERYONE SURE IS MAKING A BIG FUSS OVER A FEW CATS. WHAT HAVE THEY DONE?
OH, THERE'S HUNDREDS OF 'EM. THIS IS KATZ MANOR. WHEN THE OWNER, FELICITY KATZ, WHOSE GREAT-GRANDPA FOUNDED THIS TOWN, DIED...
...SHE LEFT ALL HER DOUGH TO HER CATS! MILLIONS OF BUCKS TO TAKE CARE OF THEM ON THE ESTATE FOREVER!

BUT LATELY, THEY'VE BEEN RUNNING ALL OVER TOWN, SPREADING BAD LUCK.
ONE OF THEM CROSSES YOUR PATH... NEXT THING YOU KNOW, SOMETHING BAD HAPPENS TO YOU.
BUT, MR. WOLFE, THE IDEA THAT A BLACK CAT CROSSING YOUR PATH IS BAD LUCK IS JUST A SILLY OLD SUPERSTITION.
NOT HERE IN KATZBURG, IT'S NOT.
I'D ROUND 'EM ALL UP, BUT THEY'VE GOT LICENSES AND COLLARS SO I CAN'T LEGALLY TOUCH 'EM.
BY THE WAY, WHY DO THEY ALL HAVE THE SAME COLLAR?
OH, THAT. I, UH... HEARD IT'S A RHINESTONE REPLICA OF A PRICELESS DIAMOND BRACELET OLD LADY KATZ OWNED.
I'VE GOT TO GO. YOU KIDS BE CAREFUL NOW.
BLACK CATS CAUSING AN EPIDEMIC OF BAD LUCK? SOUNDS LIKE A MYSTERY TO ME, GANG!
YEAH! SOMEONE SHOULD INVESTIGATE THIS.
RO! RO! RO!
ARE YOU SURE, SCOOB? NOT EVEN, LIKE...
...FOR A SCOOBY SNACK?
ROINKS!
RET'S... ÷CHOMP!÷... RO!
THE MYSTERY INC.

I GUESS WE SHOULD START BY TALKING WITH THE CARETAKER.
KNOCK KNOCK
MAN, I PITY ANYONE WHO HAS TO, LIKE, SPEND ALL DAY AROUND THESE DUMB ANIMALS, HUH, SCOOBY?
REAH, RUMB RANIMALS!
YES? HOW MAY I HELP YOU?
HI, MY NAME'S DAPHNE. CAN WE ASK YOU SOME QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR CATS...?
SIGH! I'M TERRIBLY SORRY, MA'AM.
IF YOU WILL TELL ME HOW MUCH, I SHALL WRITE YOU A CHECK.
HUH? HOW MUCH FOR WHAT?
TO REPAIR WHATEVER DAMAGE ONE OF MY...CHARGES HAS CAUSED.
THAT IS THE ONLY REASON ANYONE EVER COMES HERE ANYMORE.
SO ALL THE STORIES ABOUT BAD LUCK ARE TRUE?
SO THEY SAY, SIR. MY NAME IS HERSHEY.
I WAS MRS. KATZ'S BUTLER FOR MANY YEARS. WHEN SHE DIED, HER WILL STATED THAT I WAS TO STAY ON TO CARE FOR HER... CREATURES.
IT ALSO PROVIDES FOR THEIR FEEDING, MEDICAL CARE AND ANY... TROUBLE THEY MAY CAUSE.
OF LATE, TROUBLE IS ALL THEY HAVE BEEN!

SO ANYONE WHO CLAIMS A CAT CAUSED THEM BAD LUCK, YOU JUST WRITE THEM A CHECK?
YES, MA'AM. IT SAVES ON TIME AND *LAWYERS'* FEES.
HUNDREDS OF BLACK CATS CROSS YOUR PATH EVERY DAY. HAVE *YOU* HAD ANY BAD LUCK?
STILL, SOUNDS LIKE A PRETTY *CUSHY* JOB, HERSHEY.
ROW!
HARDLY, SIR. I AM RESPONSIBLE FOR *HUNDREDS* OF THEM... FOR A *PITTANCE* OF PAY.
MEOW
OTHER THAN MY *LIFE*, SIR? NO...OH, LAST WEEK, A *SKUNK* GOT NTO THE MANOR HOUSE. MR. WOLFE CHASED IT OUT, BUT HE HAD TO TAKE ONE OF THE CATS FOR A SPECIAL BATH TO RID IT OF THE SMELL.
NOW IF YOU WILL EXCUSE ME, IT IS TIME I CHANGED THE...*SHUDDER!*...*KITTY LITTER*.
ER... LIKE, GOOD LUCK WITH THAT, HERSH...
BOY, *NO ONE* LIKES THESE CATS!
HERSHEY SURE SOUNDS LIKE HE *RESENTS* THEM.
THEN WHY DOESN'T HE JUST QUIT?

SNIF.. SNIF...
MAYBE BECAUSE HE'D LOSE ACCESS TO THE CHECKBOOK...?
HE DID SEEM QUICK TO GIVE MONEY TO STRANGERS.
HE CAN'T JUST, LIKE, HAND OUT CASH FOR NO REASON.
"...WITH THE LOCAL NEWSPAPER!"
HE HAS A REASON... CAT DAMAGE!
WE NEED TO TALK TO SOMEBODY WH ISN'T COMPLETEL CAT-CRAZY. I SA WE START...
GROAN! NOT THOSE STUPID CATS...
...AGAIN! EVER SINCE MRS. KATZ WENT TO THE BIG LITTER BOX IN THE SKY, THAT'S ALL I HEAR ABOUT!
SO ARE THEY, LIKE, REALLY CAUSING PEOPLE TO HAVE BAD LUCK, MR. BELLOWS?
SNIF.. SNIF..
DON'T BE A DANGED FOOL. CATS CAN'T CAUSE BAD LUCK...
...BUT SOME PEOPLE BELIEVE ANYTHING! LOST YOUR KEYS? DIDN'T GET PROMOTED? TRIPPED AND BROKE YOUR LEG? BLAME THE BLACK CATS!
DUMBEST THING I EVER HEARD! TOWN'S SO RILED UP, THEY'RE TRYING TO PASS A LAW BANNING THE CATS FROM KATZBURG.
HOW THE DEVIL DO YOU BAN CATS?!
ER... WHOSE IDEA WAS THAT, MR. BELLOWS?

TRUDY VON TROUSDALE AND HER SOCIETY FRIENDS.
THEY ALWAYS HATED MRS. KATZ BECAUSE SHE WAS RICHER THAN THEM!
LET ME KNOW IF YOU FIND A STORY!
WE WILL, SIR. THANK YOU.
HIYA, KIDS. COULDN'T HELP NOTICING YOUR VAN PARKED HERE. EVERYBODY OKAY?
MR. WOLFE?! WE'RE FINE. WHY WOULDN'T WE BE?
'CAUSE OF THE CATS... LOOK! THERE GOES ANOTHER ONE!
THEY DON'T BOTHER US, SIR.
THAT'S WHAT EVERYBODY SAYS... UNTIL THEY'RE HIT BY BAD LUCK! YOU KIDS BE CAREFUL!
THANKS, MR. WOLFE.
C'MON, SCOOB, LET'S GO!
NO CATS AL-LOWED
GO.
ALL THIS SUPERSTITION TALK'S GOT ME THINKING, VELMA! I KNOW IT'S NOT TRUE... BUT WHAT IF IT IS?! I... HUH?!
IT'S A PROTEST MARCH!
GET THE CATS OUT OF KATZBURG!

ARE YOU HERE TO JOIN OUR PROTEST?
WELL, WE DO HAVE SOME QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR, ER...CAUSE. HOW HAVE THE CATS CHANGED YOUR LUCK?
I CAN ANSWER THAT! ONE OF THOSE CATS WALKED BY ME ON MAIN STREET AND, AS I WAS WATCHING IT, I TRIPPED AND BROKE MY ARM!
ONE CROSSED MY PATH JUST BEFORE I GOT FIRED!
NO CATS ALLOWED
BAN THE CATS
BAD LUCK- THE CATS GOT TO GO!
...AND THEN MY WALLET WAS MISSING!
...THE NEXT DAY, MY MOTHER CALLED WITH THE BAD NEWS...
...FOUR FLAT TIRES! LUCKILY, MR. WOLFE WAS PASSING BY, BUT...
WOW! EVERYBODY'S BLAMING THE CATS FOR, LIKE...EVERYTHING!
MOST OF THE "BAD LUCK" SOUNDS LIKE ACCIDENTS OR JUST PLAIN CLUMSINESS.
BUT SOMEONE SURE WANTS PEOPLE TO BELIEVE IT'S THE FAULT OF THE CATS...!
LATER...
EVERYONE'S REALLY GONE CAT-CRAZY IN THIS TOWN, FRED. IT'S A CASE OF MASS HYSTERIA--
--WITH EVERYBODY SHARING THE SAME IRRATIONAL FEAR.
AND THE SUPERSTITION ABOUT BLACK CATS AND BAD LUCK HAS BEEN AROUND A LONG TIME.

IT STARTED IN THE 14TH CENTURY, AT THE TIME OF THE BLACK PLAGUE--
--WHEN IT WAS BELIEVED THAT A BLACK CAT, WHICH CARRIED THE FLEAS THAT SPREAD THE PLAGUE, BROUGHT DEATH!
STOP
AND IN THE 17TH CENTURY, THEY WERE BELIEVED TO BE IN LEAGUE WITH WITCHES... HUH? FRED--YOU WENT THROUGH THAT STOP SIGN!
I... I CAN'T STOP!!
HANG ON, DAPHNE!
REEEECCHHH
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
VRRROOMM
SCREEEEEEEEEEEE
FRED...W-WHAT HAPPENED...?
THE BRAKES WEREN'T WORKING...

...AND I'M SURE IT WASN'T MASS HYSTERIA THAT CUT OUR BRAKE LINE!
=GASP!= WHO COULD HAVE DONE THAT...?!
IS EVERYONE OKAY? SEE, I KNEW SOMETHIN' BAD WAS GONNA HAPPEN AFTER THAT CAT CROSSED YOUR PATH...!
BETTER LET ME GIVE YOU A LIFT BACK TO TOWN.
THANK YOU, MR. WOLFE. WE... =WHEW!=...WHAT IS THAT SMELL?!
OH, THAT'S FROM THE SKUNK I TOOK OUT OF KATZ MANOR. GUESS THE SMELL REALLY CLINGS, HUH?
HMM, YES, IT DOES...!
SAY, MR. WOLFE, WOULD YOU MIND HELPING US FIND OUR FRIENDS...
LATER, BACK AT KATZ MANOR...
I'VE FIGURED OUT WHO HAS BEEN CAUSING KATZBURG'S BAD LUCK!
WE ALREADY KNOW WHO--IT'S THESE, UGH... CATS!
CATS DON'T CHANGE LUCK, MRS. VON TROUSDALE--
--BUT SINCE PEOPLE BELIEVE THEY DO, SOMEONE USED THAT BELIEF BY STAGING A FEW CAT-INSPIRED INCIDENTS OF BAD LUCK...
...WHILE THE REST HAS BEEN MASS HYSTERIA, HELPED ALONG BY MR. WOLFE!
M-ME? YOU'RE NUTS... WHY WOULD I DO THAT?

THAT WAS A MYSTERY UNTIL I SAW, OR I SHOULD SAY SMELLED THIS CAGE AND COLLAR IN YOUR VAN.
I WONDERED WHY YOU'D KEEP A CAGE THAT STANK FROM SKUNK IN THE FRONT WITH YOU!
"YOU SAID YOU'D USED IT TO REMOVE THE SKUNK FROM KATZ MANOR... EXCEPT THERE NEVER WAS A SKUNK!
"INSTEAD, YOU POURED A CHEMICAL THAT SMELLED LIKE SKUNK THROUGH A WINDOW...
"...KNOWING HERSHEY WOULD CALL YOU, KATZBURG'S ANIMAL CONTROL AGENT, TO REMOVE IT.
"THAT GOT YOU INSIDE THE HOUSE ALONE WITH ENOUGH TIME TO STEAL WHAT YOU CAME FOR...
"... AND THEN, TELLING HERSHEY YOU HAD CHASED AWAY THE SKUNK, YOU WALKED OUT OF THE HOUSE WITH YOUR LOOT IN PLAIN SIGHT!"
YOU THINK I DID ALL THAT JUST TO STEAL A CAT?!
NO, TO STEAL THE PRICELESS DIAMOND BRACELET THAT THE CATS' COLLARS WERE BASED ON, WHICH YOU PUT ON THE CAT YOU WERE TAKING TO BE BATHED.
BUT THE CAT ESCAPED THE CAGE, STILL WEARING THE REAL BRACELET...
...SO YOU CAME UP WITH THIS PLAGUE OF BAD LUCK TO CREATE AN EXCUSE TO ROUND UP ALL THE CATS SO YOU COULD FIND THE REAL BRACELET!
AND I WOULD HAVE GOTTEN AWAY WITH IT... IF NOT FOR MY BAD LUCK OF MEETING YOU DARNED KIDS...!
RARK!
MEOW!
the END

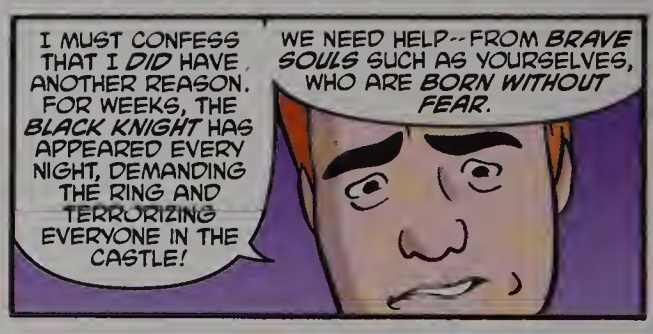
ENGLAND...
JINKIES! I NEVER KNEW THE ENGLISH COUNTRYSIDE HAD SO MANY CASTLES! ARE YOU SURE THIS IS THE RIGHT ONE?
SURE. SEE? THERE'S A GREEN LANTERN HANGING OVER THE DOOR, JUST LIKE LORD GEOFF SAID.
AH, YOU MUST BE MASTER SCOOBY AND FRIENDS. LORD GEOFFREY IS EXPECTING YOU.
I SHOULD SAY I AM! WELCOME, MY FRIENDS!
YOU'VE JUST MET MY BUTLER, CRISWELL. THIS IS MY COUSIN, SIR JOHN.
LIKE, THANKS FOR INVITING US, LORD GEOFF! THIS PLACE LOOKS MEGA-COOL! ESPECIALLY--
--THE SNACKS!
=HEH= I TOLD YOU THAT YOU WOULD HAVE AN EAGER AUDIENCE FOR YOUR COOKING, EUNICE!
GRACIOUS! IT APPEARS I'LL HAVE TO PREPARE MORE FOOD!
FEAR NOT, EUNICE. I SHALL ASSIST YOU.
WELL, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME... I'M CERTAIN GEOFFREY WILL MAKE SURE YOU HAVE EVERYTHING YOU NEED.
LIKE, WHAT COULD WE NEED? THIS PLACE HAS EVERYTHING! ANTIQUE PAINTINGS, SUITS OF ARMOR, SNACKS...

AND DON'T FORGET ONE OTHER THING, SHAGGY!
WHAT'S THAT?
EVERY PROPER ENGLISH CASTLE ALSO HAS ITS OWN--
--GHOST...?!
THE BLACK KNIGHT!
GIVE ME THE RING!
THE BLACKEST KNIGHT
SHOLLY FISCH - WRITER
FABIO LAGUNA - ARTIST
JOHN J. HILL - LETTERER
HEROIC AGE - COLORS
HARVEY RICHARDS - EDITOR

RANGWAY!
WHERE'D THAT *KNIGHT* COME FROM?!
THE *TWELFTH CENTURY*, I'M AFRAID! HE'S QUITE *UNDEAD*!

THAT WAY! INTO THE *STUDY*!
WE CAN *BOLT* THE DOOR FROM THE *INSIDE*!

GOOD THINKING, YOUR LORDSHIP!
I REGRET TO SAY THIS ISN'T THE *FIRST* TIME I'VE HIDDEN IN HERE.
WHY DO I GET THE FEELING THAT YOU DIDN'T JUST INVITE US HERE FOR A *VACATION*?


I MUST CONFESS THAT I *DID* HAVE ANOTHER REASON. FOR WEEKS, THE *BLACK KNIGHT* HAS APPEARED EVERY NIGHT, DEMANDING THE RING AND TERRORIZING EVERYONE IN THE CASTLE!
WE NEED HELP--FROM *BRAVE SOULS* SUCH AS YOURSELVES, WHO ARE *BORN WITHOUT FEAR*.

US? WE'RE, LIKE, BORN *WITH* FEAR!
WE *WAKE UP* WITH FEAR, WE *GO TO BED* WITH FEAR...
RUH-HUH!

SIGH: WE'LL DO WHAT WE CAN TO HELP.
WHAT'S THE *RING* THAT THE BLACK KNIGHT WAS TALKING ABOUT?

IT'S A FAMILY HEIRLOOM-- A GOLD RING STUDDED WITH VALUABLE GEMS. IN THE CENTER, THERE'S A LARGE EMERALD CARVED INTO THE SHAPE OF THE EAGLE FROM OUR FAMILY CREST.
IF THE BLACK KNIGHT WANTS THE RING, WE SHOULD PROBABLY CHECK TO MAKE SURE IT'S SAFE. WHERE IS IT?
THAT'S THE PROBLEM. THE RING SLIPPED OFF MY GREAT GRANDFATHER'S FINGER NEARLY ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO! NO ONE HAS EVER SEEN IT SINCE.
WELL, THE BLACK KNIGHT OBVIOUSLY THINKS IT'S HERE SOME-WHERE.
MAYBE HE'S RIGHT. WE'LL HELP LOOK.
GOOD IDEA! SCOOBY AND I WILL LOOK FOR IT BACK HOME IN THE USA!
NICE TRY.
KEEP YOUR EYES PEELED FOR A RING WITH AN EMERALD EAGLE!
EXCELLENT! NO EAGLE SHALL ESCAPE OUR SIGHT!

OKAY, LOOKS LIKE THE COAST IS CLEAR. NO SIGN OF THE BLACK KNIGHT.
WE'LL HAVE TO CHECK EVERY PLACE WHERE LORD GEOFF'S GREAT GRANDFATHER COULD HAVE LOST THE RING...
BUT THE RING'S BEEN MISSING FOR A VERY LONG TIME. IT WOULD HAVE TO BE SOMEPLACE WHERE NO ONE COULD HAVE FOUND IT IN ALL THESE YEARS.
WE'LL SEARCH THE KITCHEN! MAYBE GREAT-GRANDDAD DROPPED THE RING IN THE FOOD!
YOU THINK YOU'LL FIND IT IN THE FOOD? AFTER NEARLY ONE HUNDRED YEARS?
HEY, YOU SEARCH YOUR WAY--
--WE'LL SEARCH OURS! RIGHT, SCOOB?
HEE HEE HEE
LET'S SEE...WE CAN START BY SEARCHING THE POTATO SALAD AND SHEPHERD'S PIE...
UH... RAGGY...?
EEEEEEEEEEEEEKK!

...SO WE SHOULD PROBABLY BEGIN WITH THE PLACES WHERE YOUR GREAT GRANDFATHER SPENT MOST OF HIS TIME. WHAT DOES A "LORD OF THE MANOR" DO ALL DAY?
WELL, IN THOSE DAYS, THE LORD WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ENTIRE COUNTY-- PRESERVING THE LAND, SETTLING ARGUMENTS AMONG THE TOWNS-PEOPLE...
HE ALSO OVERSAW EVERYTHING IN THE CASTLE, FROM UNLOCKING THE GATES IN THE MORNING TO LIGHTING THE LANTERNS AT NIGH--
KNIGHT! THE KNIGHT!
GIVE ME THE RING!
BUT WE DON'T HAVE THE RING!
LIKE, WE COULDN'T EVEN FIND A RING AROUND THE BATHTUB!
THEN YOU SHALL PAY THE PENALTY--
--AT THE HANDS OF THE BLACK KNIGHT!

BOINNGG
RING... RING...
HEAD... RINGING...
LIKE, WHO KNEW A CONK ON THE HEAD COULD STOP A GHOST?
IT CAN'T, UNLESS THE GHOST--
--ISN'T REALLY A GHOST!
SIR JOHN!
JOHN? BUT...WHY?
BECAUSE OF THIS ANCIENT WILL. I FOUND IT IN THE CASTLE LIBRARY.
THE WILL SAYS THAT WHOEVER WEARS THE FAMILY RING IS LORD OF THE MANOR--AND OWNS IT ALL!
WHEW! TALK ABOUT "WILL" POWER!
DOES ANYONE HAVE AN ASPIRIN?
HMM. WELL, I'M ALREADY LORD OF THE MANOR, OF COURSE. BUT IT IS TOO BAD THAT WE COULDN'T FIND THE RING.
MAYBE WE STILL CAN. I HAVE AN IDEA...

YOU SAID YOUR GREAT GRANDFATHER WAS IN CHARGE OF EVERYTHING, FROM OPENING THE GATES TO LIGHTING THE LAMPS. HOW *DID* HE LIGHT THE LAMPS, ANYWAY?
WELL, THE CASTLE HAD NO ELECTRICITY IN THOSE DAYS. HE USED A *FLAME* TO LIGHT EACH GAS LAMP AND LANTERN.
EXACTLY! THAT GOT ME WONDERING...
IF THE LIGHT IN THIS LANTERN COMES FROM A REGULAR *FLAME*--
--THEN WHY DOES IT BURN *GREEN*?
:GASP!: THE *RING*!
THE LIGHT IN THE LANTERN REFLECTED OFF THE *EMERALD*. THAT'S WHY THE WHITE LIGHT LOOKED *GREEN* ALL THESE YEARS!
YOUR RING, YOUR LORDSHIP.
BY GEORGE, THIS *IS* A STROKE OF LUCK!
NO, IT'S *DETECTIVE WORK*. THE *LUCKY* PART WAS WHEN YOUR FAMILY CREST FELL DOWN AND CLOBBERED THE BLACK KNIGHT!
--EVERY PROPER ENGLISH CASTLE HAS ITS *GHOSTS*...
YEAH, HOW *DID* IT FALL AT JUST THE RIGHT SECOND, ANYWAY?
LIKE, DON'T LOOK AT ME! I NEVER *TOUCHED* IT!
I GUESS IT'S LIKE I SAID--
THE END

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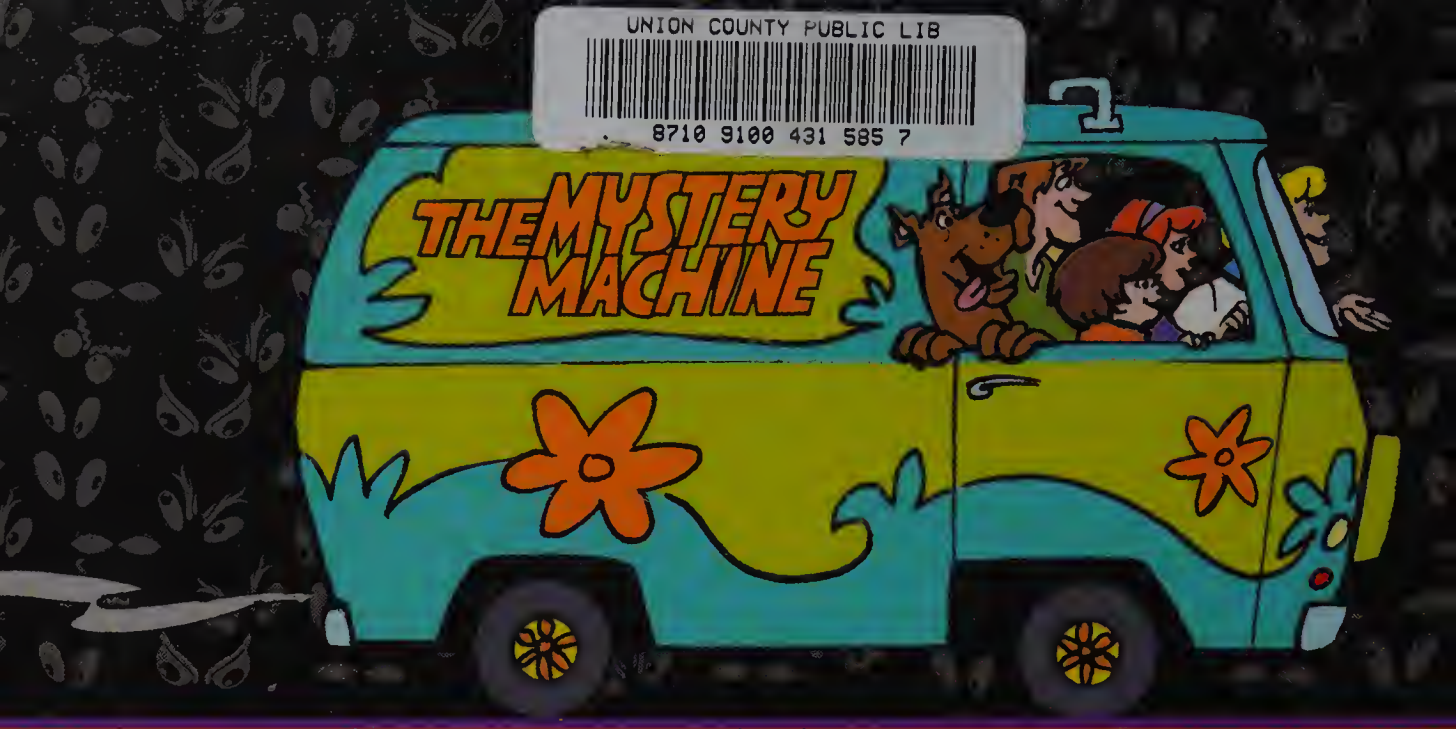

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Scooby-Doo and the Shadow Goblin
Scooby-Doo and Those Meddling Kids
Scooby-Doo in Chills and Spills!
Scooby-Doo in Fright Ride
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